Through the Backward Regions Grant Fund scheme and Gram Swaraj Yojana, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj also provides funds to the states for capacity building of staff and elected representatives of the Panchayats.

Amendment in Panchayati Raj rules

†1922. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Panchayati Raj rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to enhance the rights of Panchayati Raj office bearers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (e) Local Government, *i.e.* Panchayati Raj is a States subject. States covered under Part-IX of the Constitution are empowered to make legislations and rules thereunder regarding Panchayati Raj, and also regarding Panchayati Raj office bearers. Government of India has no direct role in the matter.

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in Kerala

1923. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several crores of rupees that are to be reimbursed to the Competent Authority of Kerala for successfully implementing the schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission with 50 per cent Central assistance is pending from the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pending amount will be reimbursed affirmatively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (e) No sir. Each State, including Kerala, is allocated funds at the beginning of each financial year from the budgetary provision made for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), now renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Department of Drinking Water Supply. Funds are then released to each State in two instalments during the year. The first instalment is released unconditional, unless the State has not taken its 2nd instalment for the previous year. At the time of release of second instalment, the funds are released after fulfilling certain

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

conditions such as provision of matching share of funds by the State, and deducting the balance carried over from previous years, expenditure disallowed by the respective audit, etc. The funds so deducted for the respective year lapse in the same year. Therefore the question of any pending amount or reimbursements thereof does not arise.

Rural Housing in Rajasthan

1924. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of time-bound action plan on annual projects under Bharat Nirman Yojana and Indira Awaas Yojana for rural housing, to ensure 'Housing for All' and budget provisions thereof;

(b) how many *Kachcha* houses in rural India, need replacement, repair and upgradation;

(c) how many of them belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL) persons and outlay required thereof;

(d) the scenario of shelterlessness in rural India and rural Rajasthan, till date;

(e) the number of houses constructed under different schemes in rural areas, during past three years, in India/Rajasthan, Scheme-wise, Year-wise; and

(f) out of the houses, how many have been allotted to SC/ST/OBC and BPL, Category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Rural Housing is one of the six components of 'Bharat Nirman' Programme which is being implemented through the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). IAY is a centrally sponsored allocation based scheme being implemented in the rural areas of all States/UTs (except Delhi and Chandigarh) with an objective to provide financial assistance for rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. Under the scheme, targets are fixed on year to year basis depending on the budgetary allocation. However, the Government has proposed to construct 120 lakh houses during the 'Bharat Nirman' period from 2009-10 to 2013-14.

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, there are 114.02 lakh non-serviceable kachcha houses and 199.20 lakh serviceable kachcha houses. Further as per an estimate, 243 lakh houses belonging to BPL families still require replacement. To replace these kachcha houses by pucca houses, about Rs. 64000.00 crore would be required as Central share at the existing rate of unit assistance provided under IAY.

(d) to (f) As per the information furnished by the Office of Registrar General of India based on 2001 Census, total housing shortage in rural areas throughout the country mainly on account of non-serviceable kachcha houses and households not having houses, was 148.33 lakh. A Statement showing the housing shortage in rural areas of the country including Rajasthan and the number of houses constructed and allotted to SC/ST rural BPL households during the last three year in India including Rajasthan under Indira Awaas Yojana Scheme is enclosed (*See* below). However, data in respect of OBC is not captured separately.